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Some memories of Jackie are faulty

PERSONALS
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Among a collection of reminiscences in the latest New Yorker, **William Manchester,** who was authorized by **Jacqueline Kennedy** to write "Death of a President" (she later withdrew support, fearing it would intrude on her privacy), recalls flying to Cape Cod to visit the widow:

"She met me at the airport and handed me the car keys. She was the kind of woman who would never drive if there was a man in the car. Her values were not even of the '50s but of a generation before.

"I live in Middletown, Conn., and we would talk about her coming for a visit. She'd say, 'How do you get there? Do you have to fly to Boston first?' She didn't have any idea of the geography of Connecticut."

Manchester ends by noting that Jackie's November 1963 trip to Texas was "the first time she had been west of the Adirondacks."

Melissa Pranger of The New Yorker told "Personals" that this story had been fact-checked — "We called Manchester and he said it was true" — but columnist **Herb Caen** recalls having had dinner with Jackie in San Francisco in 1959 or '60. And JFK's close friend **Red Fay** was with the Kennedys when they came up to San Francisco after honeymooning at the San Ysidro Ranch in Santa Barbara.

Manchester's claim, said Fay, is "horse-hockey."

THE TROUBLE WITH BILL: Trying to understand why so many Americans have such strong negative opinions about **Bill Clinton,** Washington Post reporter **Ann Devroy** interviewed historian **Stephen Ambrose,** author of numerous books about late-20th century presidents, including Richard M. Nixon.

Ambrose, 58, said he may be typical of Americans who don't want anyone younger than 60 to be president.

"Guys in their 40s are just too young," he said. "I want maturity. I want a world figure whose reputation is unassailable. I want someone who isn't in the White House to make a name for himself. I want someone who had a respected career before he became president.

"I think people don't like having a squirt for president. I want Ike."

"Personals" runs Monday through Thursday in Features.

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